--15. (New) The information retrieval method of claim 13, wherein said group user model is formed by said minimum value mode.--

--16. (New) The information retrieval method of claim 13, wherein said group user model is formed by said average value mode.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract with the following new abstract:

--In an information retrieval method and apparatus, a specific user model is formed for a specific user based at least upon the specific user's own selection data. A plurality of specific user models formed for respective users are registered, and a group user model is formed on the basis of the plurality of specific user models. Information is subsequently retrieved based on the group user model. The group user model may be formed by selecting a maximum, minimum or average value of the plurality of specific user models.--

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Claims 1-12 were pending in this application. By the present Amendment, Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-12 have been amended for clarity, Claims 13 – 16 are added, and Claims 2 and 8 are canceled. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct grammatical and inadvertent

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